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**SUMMARY PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 15 (C) OF
THE ANNEX TO HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL RESOLUTION 5/1 ***

Azerbaijan

The present report is a summary of 13 stakeholders' submissions¹ to the universal periodic review. It follows the structure of the general guidelines adopted by the Human Rights Council. It does not contain any opinions, views or suggestions on the part of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), nor any judgement or determination in relation to specific claims. The information included herein has been systematically referenced in endnotes and, to the extent possible, the original texts have not been altered. Lack of information or focus on specific issues may be due to the absence of submissions by stakeholders regarding these particular issues. The full texts of all submissions received are available on the OHCHR website. The report has been prepared taking into consideration the four-year periodicity of the first cycle of the review.

* The present document was not edited before being sent to the United Nations translation services.

I. BACKGROUND AND FRAMEWORK

A. Scope of international obligations

1. The Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) recommended that the Parliament of Azerbaijan ratify the International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol. The Ombudsman further stated that it has submitted a proposal for speeding up the ratification of the OPCAT signed by Azerbaijan on 15 September 2005.²

B. Constitutional and legislative framework

2. The Becket Fund (BF) noted that Azerbaijan is a secular republic (Art. 6 of the Constitution), in which religion is “separated from the State” (Art.18 of the Constitution). Articles 18 and 25 of the Constitution further protect the equality of religions. Article 48 of the Constitution explicitly guarantees freedom of religion and conscience.

C. Institutional and human rights infrastructure

3. The Ombudsman stated that in 2006, the International Coordination Committee of National Institutions accredited it with “A status” for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC).³

D. Policy measures

4. The Ombudsman noted that concrete measures are being realized for implementation of the legal norms concerning corruption. For example, the establishment of the new “one window” system simplified significantly the terms of business registration, and practically avoided corruption in this field. At the same time, the problem of corruption continues hindering human rights protection in different fields, and further effective measures should be implemented. The newly adopted Law on Access to Information, the Code of Ethics, Amendments to the Penal Code will serve as effective tools in combating corruption.⁴

5. Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) noted the 2004 *State programme on improvement of living standards and generation of employment for refugees and IDPs* aimed at improving the living conditions of IDPs, focusing on relocation of IDPs living in tent camps and other sub-standard shelter to new villages.⁵

II. PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE GROUND

A. Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

N/A.

B. Implementation of international human rights obligations

1. Equality and non-discrimination

6. The Ombudsman stated that, despite recent adoption of the Law “On gender equality”, there are concerns problems of domestic violence and under-representation of women in decision making have not been sufficiently addressed. Early marriages also remain a problem in some remote regions of the country, which has negative impact on education of girls and women, their active participation in social life, and protection of their rights. Ombudsman recommended that

in cases when an adult enters into a marriage with an under-aged girl, criminal responsibility be attached to the adult.⁶

7. CWMW noted that gender-biased values represent a key challenge in the field of sexual and reproductive rights. For instance/example, society values boys more than girls because ethnicity and family name are passed through men. Consequently, many families decide to abort female fetuses.⁷

2. Right to life, liberty and security of the person

8. SOS Children's Villages-Azerbaijan Association (SOSCVAA) noted that numerous researches and polls showed that many forms of punishment, including corporal punishment and ill-treatment of children, are still used in institutions. With no effective complaint procedures, children have no possibility to complain about cruel treatment, and no measures are taken to protect children in institutions. No independent body observes, monitors and takes necessary actions to prevent these cases.⁸

9. The Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights (the CoE Commissioner) recommended that Azerbaijan strengthen the measures already taken to prevent the occurrence of violence against women, raise awareness through campaigns and provide shelters for victims of such violence.⁹

10. Center "Women and Modern World" (CWMW) noted that in case of rape, the family usually tries to cover up, and if the victim is single, they may offer her the possibility to marry the perpetrator. Reporting a rape is also a long and humiliating endeavor in a society which blames the woman for being sexually abused. The high level of corruption among law enforcement agencies makes it very difficult to punish the perpetrators.¹⁰ CWMW further noted that organizations working on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues in Azerbaijan report constant police abuse of transgender sex workers, including arbitrary detention, blackmailing, physical and sexual violence.¹¹

11. The Ombudsman noted that the problem of trafficking in persons was addressed through the establishment of a Department on Trafficking in Human Beings at the Ministry of Internal Affairs.¹²

12. The CoE Commissioner recommended that Azerbaijan adopt robust measures to counter trafficking in human beings, establish educational awareness campaigns to inform the population of the threat, build shelters for the victims of trafficking and train personnel to supervise the psychological assistance to victims of human trafficking.¹³

3. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

13. Human Rights Center of Azerbaijan (HRCA) stated that corruption and the lack of independence of the judiciary remain serious problems in Azerbaijan, which results in the creation of new cases of unfair and politically motivated trials and imprisonments. HRCA further noted that the authorities try to improve the negative image of the judiciary by renewal of judges through the test examination and cleansing of the judiciary from the most corrupted and non-professional judges. However, this has little impact on the situation on the political persecutions, pressure at the media, and investigation of torture whereby perpetrators of violation still enjoy impunity.¹⁴

14. The CoE Commissioner recommended that Azerbaijan complete the reform of the judiciary so as to ensure its full independence, impartiality and effectiveness by continuing the efforts undertaken in the system of selection and appointment of judges, focusing on integrity of candidates, their practical abilities and knowledge of human rights standards; proceeding to the establishment of a National Academy for Judges; increasing funding of the judiciary and securing better conditions for proper administration of justice; encouraging the evolution of the Collegium of advocates into a professional bar association independent from the State; ensure the application of codes of ethics for legal professions and take measures to prevent undue pressure on advocates; taking urgent measures to improve proper enforcement of judicial decisions; and introducing a system of juvenile justice in accordance with international standards.¹⁵

15. The CoE Commissioner recommended that Azerbaijan address police violence by reinforcing appropriate training and control measures, systematically investigate all cases of abuses and bring the perpetrators to justice, to avoid impunity.¹⁶ He also recommended that the police of Azerbaijan ensure an effective enforcement of the right to legal counsel; ensure that the relatives of detained people are timely informed about the places of detention; and provide further improvements to medical and sanitary conditions in pre-trial detention facilities.¹⁷

16. The Ombudsman noted that the Law “On social adaptation of the former prisoners” was adopted on 31 May 2007 for the successful integration of liberated prisoners within society. Another new Law “On amendment of the Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Execution of Punishment and of the Criminal Procedural Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan” was adopted on 24 June 2008, which provides inmates with a wider range of rights, alleviates detention conditions and censorship of correspondence, creates more opportunities for involvement of prisoners to labour and social activities.¹⁸ The Ombudsman also noted that a public watch group of NGOs was established at the Ministry of Justice to conduct regular independent monitoring of the conditions in prisons and detention centres without limitation as to the number and time of visits or the choice of a place of visit.¹⁹

17. SOSCVAA noted that there is no specialized juvenile justice system and juvenile (family) courts and judges in Azerbaijan. In 2005, a lobbying campaign by a local NGO network promoted the establishment of the position of Children’s Rights Ombudsman in Azerbaijan, which will be established soon. Having separate Children’s Rights Ombudsman (to be appointed by President and approved by Parliament of Azerbaijan) within the system of deputy of Human Rights Commissioner will significantly improve the situation of children’s rights in the country, and support civil society efforts to improve legislation and protect children from violence.²⁰

4. Right to privacy, marriage and family life

18. IDMC stated that Azerbaijani legislation does not fully recognise the right of internally displaced women’s children to inherit forcibly displaced persons (FDP) status. The status of children from mixed (FDP and non-FDP) marriages depends on whether the father has FDP status. Children born to a displaced mother and non-displaced father are not eligible for FDP status, whereas children born to a non-displaced mother and displaced father may be granted FDP status. However, if a woman with FDP status divorces a non-displaced man then the children from this marriage may acquire FDP status since the woman assumes the position of head of the family after divorce.²¹

19. SOSCVAA stated that most of the adopted state programs and National Plans of Action targeting children have not been fully implemented. The lack of coordination and

communication between different structures of the Government creates serious barriers for effective implementation of these programs and activities. Also, most of the programs and plans of actions are developed without serious research and study conducted in the field as well as insufficient piloting of newly developed mechanisms, prior to their nation-wide application.²²

20. SOSCVAA noted that mechanisms for adoption and guardianship are elaborated in the law of the Azerbaijan Republic. But a potential adoptive parent faces some obstacles when wishing to adopt a child. In Azerbaijan, adoptions are limited by the complicated procedures, bureaucratic barriers and the lack of transparency as well as corruption within the system. Adoptive parents also don't receive any financial and other support from government.²³

21. CWMW stated that women cannot fully enjoy their rights to sexual and reproductive rights due to, among others, the following underlying factors: 1) due to the military-political events in Qarabakh in 1988, many young men died, which increased pressure on women to give birth to/have male children; 2) economic difficulties related to the transition period made a large number of men l/go abroad to search for/in search of employment, leaving women as the majority of the workforce; and 3) the social and cultural environment caused by the conflict placed psychological and emotional pressure on women.²⁴

5. Freedom of religion or belief, expression, association and peaceful assembly, and right to participate in public and political life

22. BF noted that, while the Constitution firmly establishes protections for the freedom of religion in Azerbaijan, the state has failed to implement these protections in law or practice.²⁵ BF further stated that, even though the Constitution explicitly provides for the necessary protections of religious freedom, the government of Azerbaijan treats religion as a threat to its security and authority. Fears of radical religious groups and foreign influence on religious groups have caused the Government to enact a strict religion law, which seeks to control religion through a burdensome and overly restrictive registration process.²⁶

23. Jubilee Campaign (JC) stated that some Azeri officials refuse to register the birth of children who are given Christian names, which ultimately limits access to education, medical treatment, and travel. Police raids have occurred on churches with or without registration. Religious literature is censored and the International Religious Liberty Association Azerbaijan Affiliate has not been allowed to register over the last two years.²⁷

24. The Ombudsman stated that in the past, complaints were received from representatives of Jehovah's Witnesses. The Ombudsman met with their representatives and made inquiries to the relevant authorities, including the Committee of Religious Affairs. In certain cases, it was found that these persons were detained for violation of the Law "On freedom of religion" (i.e. they were attracting teenagers to their community, disseminating illegal literature).²⁸

25. Conscience and Peace Tax International stated that Azerbaijan has to date not introduced legislation to implement the Constitutional provision allowing for conscientious objection to obligatory military service.²⁹

26. European Association of Jehovah's Christian Witnesses (EAJCW) stated that, despite being legally registered, Jehovah's Witnesses experience difficulties exercising their religious freedom to obtain religious literature and to gather for religious meetings. Government agencies have illegally raided religious meetings and mistreated those in attendance. Those who object to military service on religious and conscience grounds are criminally charged and sentenced.

Religious literature is censored and often prevented to be brought into the country/refused importation.³⁰

27. European Centre for Law and Justice noted that, while foreigners and stateless persons are entitled to enjoy the freedom of conscience equal to that of citizens of Azerbaijan, they are prohibited from carrying out religious propaganda.³¹

28. HRCA stated that human rights defenders are often criticized as national traitors. Those who promote peace-related activities face special criticism.³²

29. The CoE Commissioner recommended that Azerbaijan encourage the work on a draft law to modify the current legislation on defamation to take away the possibility of depriving anyone of his/her liberty on accounts of opinion.³³

30. The CoE Commissioner recommended that Azerbaijan simplify the procedure for the registration of NGOs and deliver replies within the time prescribed by law; and adopt without delay the amendments to the 1998 law on freedom of assembly and consider each application for a demonstration following precise and objective criteria.³⁴

31. Citizens' Labour Rights Protection League noted that the Law on "Freedom of Assembly" adopted on 13 November 1998 aimed at providing the right of freedom of peaceful assembly set forth in the Constitution does not address the actual protection of such right, but rather addresses the issues of prohibition and restriction of assembly. On 30 May 2008, significant changes to the law were made thereby fulfilling the right of freedom of assembly and the right to an effective remedy in case of violation thereof. However, serious shortcomings still remain to be overcome. For instance, all notification letters of assemblies sent to the local authorities were rejected. Assemblies were prevented through use of force. CLRPL further noted that, while the presidential election campaigns have started, there is no guarantee of the right to freedom of assembly.³⁵

32. The Ombudsman noted that the new State Concept of Support for Journalists was adopted on 31 July 2008, setting out principles of state support to journalists and independent media, including financial assistance and professional training.³⁶

33. Reporters Without Borders noted that the communications and information technology Minister, Ali Abbasov, told the *Azerbaijan Press Agency (APA)* on 19 July 2008 that he wanted to set up an agency to supervise Azerbaijan's internet in order to prevent cyber-crime and guarantee internet security. The agency's role is vaguely defined and it could be used to restrict online freedom. Internet surveillance will enable the authorities to trace those who criticise the Government online.³⁷

34. The Ombudsman noted that the most recent development in the field of electoral rights was the adoption in June 2008 of ninety one amendments to the Electoral Code. Two Presidential Decrees "On improvement of election practice" adopted on 11 May and 25 October of 2005 have banned interference of the executive power and the police with the process of elections in the country.³⁸

6. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work

35. IDMC stated that the vast majority of IDPs in rural areas are unemployed. 63 per cent of IDPs live below the poverty line, compared to about 20 per cent of Azerbaijani citizens as a whole. As a result, many have left their families to find jobs elsewhere.³⁹

7. Right to social security and to an adequate standard of living

36. The Ombudsman noted that in some cases of demolition of houses for general city reconstruction purposes, owners' rights are violated. They are either not provided with compensation, or it is provided with a delay.⁴⁰

37. IDMC stated that in the outskirts of cities, IDPs live mainly in improvised shacks that are inadequate in terms of space, security, lighting, ventilation and basic infrastructure. They are built from materials such as mud bricks, rocks, sticks, cardboard and scrap metal, all held together with wood and plaster. These shacks are usually extremely small, and the roofs regularly fly off since they are not attached securely. The floors are covered with scrap material, but this does not protect against the entry of mice and snakes. With no heating system or proper windows, these shelters fail to provide light, warmth, ventilation, physical security or privacy. Many IDPs living in such shelters must also contend with a lack of potable water and gas, and with infertile land.⁴¹

38. The Ombudsman noted that new diagnostic centres, hospitals and ambulatories as well as huge modern Olympic Sport Complexes were built in the regions of the country, including IDP settlements.⁴²

39. IDMC noted that conflict and displacement have caused psycho-social stress among IDPs, many of whom appear to be in need of mental health services. The displaced/IDPs seem to suffer most from trauma and feelings of insecurity and isolation, due to war, poor living conditions and uncertainty about the future. They also suffer disproportionately from malnutrition, infant mortality, tuberculosis, diphtheria and anaemia.⁴³

40. CWMW noted that the high incidence of maternal and infant mortality in Azerbaijan is connected primarily to: 1) low degree/lack of awareness and knowledge of reproductive health on the part of women; 2) lack of qualified doctors, even though State facilities provide care for pregnant women free-of-charge; and 3) widespread poverty among the population, even though traditionally special attention is paid by families to the proper nourishment for pregnant women.⁴⁴ CWMW further noted that infant mortality rates (during the first year of life) in 2006 were 75 / 1000 in Azerbaijan – ten times higher than in other European countries.⁴⁵

41. SOSCVAA stated that in 1999 Azerbaijan adopted the Law on Social protection of children without parental care and orphans. The law states that every child placed in the residential care system retains his/her right to property, family reintegration, social and education support, and care during placement and social support after he/she left the residential care system. It also states that every child's placement shall be monitored by respective government agencies and three months before the child leaves the institution, the respective government agency/these agencies shall determine the needs of accommodation for the child elsewhere. If a child does not have a property left by parents, the government shall provide the accommodation for the child. However, the Commission on Minors' Affairs and the authorities of residential care institutions do not undertake necessary measures to ensure that children are accommodated after they leave the institutions.⁴⁶

8. Right to education and to participate in the cultural life of the community

42. The Ombudsman stated that, although targeted reforms continuously take place in the sphere of education, and each year more schools are built and provided with modern equipment,

schools in remote regions and IDP settlements still experience shortages of teaching staff and equipment.⁴⁷

43. IDMC stated that the access of displaced and returned children to schools is ensured. Internally displaced students benefit from free school bags, uniforms, books and stationery. However, displaced parents report they do not always receive these items and so must pay for textbooks and clothing for their children. Poverty has caused some students to drop out of school. Additionally, early marriages cause girls to drop out of school.⁴⁸

44. SOSCVAA stated that there are about 52,000 children with disabilities in Azerbaijan. The majority of these children do not attend school as schools do not provide appropriate facilities for them. The majority of schools are not equipped with/do not have special classes, equipment, skilled teachers and teacher-assistants, adapted curricula and other education materials to provide suitable education for children with disabilities. The only possibility for these children to get primary and secondary education is to be placed in residential care institutions.⁴⁹ SOSCVAA further noted that the inclusive education concept has been introduced in Azerbaijan and a special government program was developed in 2005. However, implementation has been very slow and inconsistent, and there are lots of constraints, including the public's general attitude towards including/the inclusion of children with disabilities with other children in regular schools. The key obstacle is the lack of political will and understanding of the concept of inclusive education. The absence of specialised adapted curricula, textbooks, and school facilities hinders the inclusive education of children with special needs, including children with disabilities.⁵⁰

9. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers

45. HRCA stated that, while more than 230,000 other refugees enjoy refugee status even after receiving the Azerbaijani citizenship in 1998, the 6,000-strong community of Chechen asylum seekers faces persistent problems with registration of their status. The Azerbaijan State Committee on Work with Refugees and IDPs still refuses to deal with this group of asylum seekers and re-addressed/has redirected this issue to the UNHCR office in Baku.⁵¹

46. Council of Europe's European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (CoE/ECRI) stated that it is concerned by the practice of the Azerbaijani authorities of informing the Russian authorities about attempts by Russian citizens to seek political asylum in Azerbaijan. Such a practice puts the persons who are persecuted for political reasons at risk.⁵² ECRI further noted that Russian citizens from Chechnya in Azerbaijan are left in a legal limbo. They are tolerated on Azerbaijan territory but do not get any documents from the authorities legalizing their presence. The only document they can show if the police arrest them is a piece of paper indicating that they are registered with the UNHCR office in Azerbaijan.⁵³

10. Internally displaced persons

47. The Ombudsman stated that, with a huge number of refugees and IDPs, Azerbaijan suffers from one of the biggest displacement problems in the world. The Ombudsman pays regular attention to IDPs, makes on-site visits, receives their complaints and assists in resolving their problems. It noted that significant budgetary allocations were spent on building new IDP settlements, improvement of infrastructure, and opening of educational and healthcare facilities. By 29 December 2007, all tent camps were closed and people were moved to the new

settlements. However, there are some reports on the lack of economic opportunities and labour places in rural areas and the relatively high rate of unemployment among refugees and IDPs.⁵⁴

48. IDMC noted that new villages for resettled IDPs are segregated from the non-displaced population and are often located far from administrative centres without transport facilities. It is also not clear to what extent relocation to the new villages has been a result of a conscious, voluntary choice of displaced families, and what information was available to them beforehand on factors such as location, infrastructure and income opportunities.⁵⁵

49. CoE/ECRI stated that one consequence of the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh is the presence of hundreds of thousands of refugees and IDPs on the territory of Azerbaijan under the control of the Azerbaijani authorities. These include refugees from Armenia and persons displaced from Nagorno-Karabakh and the adjacent regions. Although other ethnic origins are represented among these persons, the vast majority of the refugees and displaced persons are ethnic Azerbaijani. These persons are victims of racial discrimination because they have been expelled or forced to flee on the grounds of their ethnic origin and are as yet unable to return to their homes.⁵⁶

III. ACHIEVEMENTS, BEST PRACTICES, CHALLENGES AND CONSTRAINTS

50. The Ombudsman stated that one of the positive developments was the adoption of the first National Action Plan (NAP) on Protection of Human Rights by the presidential decree of 28 December 2006. To ensure the efficient implementation of the NAP, a Working Group guided by the Commissioner (Ombudsman) was established for independent monitoring, evaluation and coordination of the joint efforts of state bodies. Civil society conducts regular public hearings in each district of the country, aimed at raising public awareness, and discussing the perspectives of collaboration and consolidation of all stakeholders for its implementation. Members of Parliament, representatives of local executive bodies, courts, police, prosecutor offices, municipalities, local minority communities, NGOs and mass media attend these public hearings.⁵⁷

51. The Ombudsman noted that an NGO Council was created for the purposes of building the capacities and providing financial support to NGOs, which will stimulate a further development of civil society in the country.⁵⁸

52. HRC stated that the penitentiary reform is one of the most successful areas of cooperation between the Government and civil society. In 2006, the Ministry of Justice created the Public Committee of 10 non-governmental experts to monitor the situation in prisons. Results of prison visits are reported to the Human Rights and Public Relations Department of the Ministry. Following the recommendations of the Public Committee and foreign experts, on 24 June 2008, Parliament amended the penitentiary legislation improving the detention standards. In particular, there were increased permitted family visits, food parcels, money to spend in prison shop and phone calls to life prisoners, lifted some restrictions for high education, use of TV sets, and the number of inmates in cells.⁵⁹

53. IDMC noted that the Azerbaijani Government has supported some 70,000 IDPs who have been squatting in private apartments and other IDPs with a resolution and decree recommending that the courts prevent the eviction of IDPs from their residences. Court judgements have mostly rejected applications concerning the right to reclaim occupied residences, confirming that this right will be suspended as long as the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh remains unresolved and IDPs cannot return to their homes.⁶⁰

54. IDMC stated that the Government has established the State Committee on Issues of Refugees and IDPs, trained government officials on the rights of IDPs, raised national awareness of the internal displacement problem, collected data on the numbers and location of IDPs, resettled some 90,000 IDPs in new villages and cooperated with international and regional organisations.⁶¹ IDMC further stated that, while developing policies and programmes to address the needs of IDPs, the Government did not consult IDPs. It also did not ensure or facilitate the participation of IDPs in the planning and implementation of adopted policies and programmes. IDPs living in new villages have explained how they would have welcomed the chance to state their opinion on resettlement beforehand. Furthermore, the views of IDPs have not been sought in negotiations for a peace agreement.⁶²

IV. KEY NATIONAL PRIORITIES, INITIATIVES AND COMMITMENTS

N/A.

V. CAPACITY BUILDING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

N/A.

Notes

¹ The stakeholders listed below have contributed information for this summary; the full texts of all original submissions are available at: www.ohchr.org. (One asterisk denotes a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.)

Civil society

BF	The Becket Fund*, Washington D. C., USA
CLRPL	Citizens' Labour Rights Protection League, Baku, Azerbaijan
CWMW	Center "Women and Modern World", Baku, Azerbaijan, Joint Submission with LGBT Organization Labrys (Kyrgyzstan) and Sexual Rights Initiative
CPTI	Conscience and Peace Tax International*, Leuven, Belgium
EAJCW	The European Association of Jehovah's Christian Witnesses, London, the UK
ECLJ	European Centre for Law and Justice*, Strasbourg, France
JC	Jubilee Campaign, Virginia, USA
HRCA	Human Rights Center of Azerbaijan, Baku, Azerbaijan
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre of the Norwegian Refugee Council*, Oslo, Norway
RWB	Reporters Without Borders*, Paris, France
SOSCVAA	SOS Children's Villages-Azerbaijan Association, Azerbaijan

National Human Rights Institution

Ombudsman	Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman), Baku, Azerbaijan
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Regional Organizations

CoE	Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France
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² The Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman), paras. 6 and 7.

³ The Ombudsman, para. 5.

⁴ The Ombudsman, para. 33.

⁵ Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), para. 3.

⁶ The Ombudsman, para. 30.

⁷ CWMW, para. 28.

- ⁸ SOS Children's Villages-Azerbaijan Association (SOSCVAA), p. 2.
- ⁹ The CoE Commissioner, para. 30.
- ¹⁰ Center "Women and Modern World" (CWMW), para. 8.
- ¹¹ CWMW, para. 31.
- ¹² The Ombudsman, para. 31. See also Jubilee Campaign (JC), para. 19.
- ¹³ The CoE Commissioner, para. 32.
- ¹⁴ Human Rights Center of Azerbaijan (HRCA), paras. 14 and 15.
- ¹⁵ The CoE Commissioner, para. 2.
- ¹⁶ The CoE Commissioner, para. 3.
- ¹⁷ The CoE Commissioner, paras. 4-7.
- ¹⁸ The Ombudsman, para. 19.
- ¹⁹ The Ombudsman, para. 21.
- ²⁰ SOSCVAA, p. 5. See also The CoE Commissioner, para. 9.
- ²¹ IDMC, para. 6.
- ²² SOSCVAA, p. 4.
- ²³ SOSCVAA, p. 4. See also The CoE Commissioner, para. 33.
- ²⁴ CWMW, para. 14.
- ²⁵ The Becket Fund (BF), p. 1.
- ²⁶ BF, p. 2.
- ²⁷ Jubilee Campaign (JC), para. 17.
- ²⁸ The Ombudsman, para. 29.
- ²⁹ Conscience and Peace Tax International (CPTI), p. 1. See also European Association of Jehovah's Christian Witnesses (EAJCW), p. 4.
- ³⁰ EAJCW, p. 1. See also The CoE Commissioner, para. 24.
- ³¹ European Centre for Law and Justice (ECLJ), p. 3.
- ³² HRCA, para. 2.
- ³³ The CoE Commissioner, para. 20.
- ³⁴ The CoE Commissioner, paras. 21-22.
- ³⁵ Citizens' Labour Rights Protection League (CLRPL), p.1.
- ³⁶ The Ombudsman, para. 27.
- ³⁷ Reporters Without Borders (RWB), p. 2.
- ³⁸ The Ombudsman, para. 22.
- ³⁹ IDMC, para. 9.
- ⁴⁰ The Ombudsman, para. 34.
- ⁴¹ IDMC, para. 20.
- ⁴² The Ombudsman, para. 15.
- ⁴³ IDMC, para. 24.
- ⁴⁴ CWMW, para. 16.
- ⁴⁵ CWMW, para. 18.

⁴⁶ SOSCVAA, p. 3.

⁴⁷ The Ombudsman, para. 15.

⁴⁸ IDMC, para. 26.

⁴⁹ SOSCVAA, p. 3.

⁵⁰ SOSCVAA, p. 3.

⁵¹ HRCA, para. 20.

⁵² CoE/ECRI, Second Report on Azerbaijan, para. 94.

⁵³ CoE/ECRI, para. 95.

⁵⁴ The Ombudsman, paras. 12 - 14.

⁵⁵ IDMC, para. 15.

⁵⁶ ECRI, Second Report on Azerbaijan, para. 76.

⁵⁷ The Ombudsman, para. 9.

⁵⁸ The Ombudsman, para. 10. See also HRCA, para. 4.

⁵⁹ HRCA, para. 17.

⁶⁰ IDMC, para. 18.

⁶¹ IDMC, para. 7.

⁶² IDMC, para. 10.
